

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which include Figures 1, 2, and 3 replaces the original sheet including Figures 1, 2, and 3.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 18, and 22 are amended, claim 2 is cancelled, and claims 23 and 24 are new. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 14. These claims have been presented in independent form as claims 23 and 24, respectively. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 23 and 24 are allowable.

Drawing Objection Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a)

Figure 1 is amended to include the rotary mechanism drive and is now in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The specification is amended to add the reference numeral for this mechanism. No new matter is introduced and support for the mechanism drive is included in the specification, page 2, lines 10-11, and page 5, at the paragraph beginning on line 16.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 5-7, 12, 13, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0175,089, to Almind. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2, and as amended recites, “a ball rotary joint arranged on the carrier element.” Furthermore, claim 18 is amended to recite, “handling the carrier element and the at least one rotor blade via a ball rotary joint mounted on the carrier element.” In contrast, Almind fails to disclose a ball rotary joint. Therefore, claims 1 and 18, and all claims that depend from claims 1 and 18, respectively, are allowable over Almind.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 15, as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Almind in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,276,888, to Rubio. However, Rubio is not a proper reference because it is non-analogous art. In order for a cited reference to be analogous art, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor, or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor is concerned. (See MPEP 2141.01(a); emphasis added). Clearly, the apparatus in Rubio is not in the field of the

Applicant's endeavor in the present application because Rubio is concerned with containing and compacting solid waste, whereas, the present invention is concerned with handling rotor blades.

Furthermore, the particular problem with which the Applicant of the present application is concerned is to provide an apparatus configured for handling rotor blades while reducing an effect of wind on the rotor blades when being handled. In contrast, the particular problem addressed in Rubio is receiving, containing and compacting solid waste. (See Title). A reference is reasonably pertinent if it is one which because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his problem. (See MPEP 2141.01(a)). A solid waste compactor would not commend itself to the present inventors' attention in considering an improved system for handling rotor blades. Accordingly, amended claim 1, which incorporates the limitation of claim 2, and all claims that depend from claim 1, are patentable over Almind in view of Rubio.

Even if Rubio is considered to be analogous, which it is not, the opening mechanism 16 of Rubio does not teach, suggest, or motivate in any way, the ball rotary joint 12 of the present application. The opening mechanism 16 includes a perimeter flange 26, which is coupled to fork 14 of the hooking device 12 in Rubio. (Column 3, lines 47-52). The specification is silent with respect to any rotation of opening mechanism 16 and from Figure 3 of Rubio, it can be seen that once the fork 14 and mechanism 16 are coupled, neither can rotate. Therefore, the opening mechanism 16 simply couples the container 4 to the fork 14 to lift the container 4. (See column 4, lines 7-12). Accordingly, Rubio fails to teach the ball rotary joint 12 of the present application, and amended claim 1, and all claims that depend from claim 1, are patentable over Almind in view of Rubio.

The Examiner rejects claims 4 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Almind in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,928, to Saia et al. ("Saia"). Saia is also non-analogous art because a portable cooler would not commend itself to the present inventors' attention in considering an improved system for handling rotor blades. Accordingly, amended claims 4 and 22 are allowable over Almind in view of Saia. Claim 4 is also allowable for depending from claim 1.

Claim 22 is amended to recite that the attachment means comprises "a ball rotary joint arranged on the carrier element." Accordingly, even if Saia is considered to be analogous,

which it is not, claim 22 is allowable because Almind and Saia fail to teach, suggest, or motivate a ball rotary joint arranged on the carrier element.

The Examiner rejects claims 8-11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Almind in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,397,000, to Holte et al. ("Holte"). Claims 8-11 are allowable for depending from allowable claim 1, and claim 21 is allowable for depending from claim 18.

In the interest of brevity, not all arguments supporting allowability of the dependent claims on their own merits are made here because these claims are allowable for depending from one of the allowable independent claims 1 and 18. Applicant reserves the right to make other arguments in support of all the pending claims at a later time, as Applicant deems necessary.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims remaining in the application are now allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:

1 Sheet of Replacement Drawings (Figs. 1-3)

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